

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



Scenery Management System (SMS)

Concurrent with Forest Plan Revision on the Manti-La Sal National Forest the visual management system is being updated under the Scenery Management System (SMS) criteria. SMS criteria evaluates visual quality of the Forest's landscape and features, identifying scenic components as they relate to people and assigning a value for aesthetics. This is a multi-step process and the resulting findings will help inform decisions relating to scenery at project levels and development of the Revised Forest Plan.

Concern Levels

People's values regarding scenery helps determine the relative importance of aesthetics to the public. Concern Levels measure the importance that people place on landscapes viewed from travel ways, use areas, and water bodies. This importance is expressed as a concern level value of 1, 2, or 3 to reflect the relative high, medium, or low importance of scenery.

In 2006/2007 the Forest developed draft Concern Level maps that included public input. The past concern level mapping was completed by Forest staff based on knowledge of how the public uses the land on a daily basis along with and public and cooperator participation. Some concern areas and routes were previously identified by the public and cooperators. For the current Plan Revision effort, these maps are currently being updated using current conditions.

Each travel route (i.e. road and trail) within or adjacent to the forest has a draft preliminary concern level 1 or 2 which represents high and moderate level of concern respectively. Any open roads not mapped as concern level 1 or 2 are assumed to be concern level 3. Recreation use areas (i.e. campgrounds, scenic overlooks) also have a draft preliminary concern level rating of 1-3.

Public Participation

Starting July 21st, 2017 we will have a 30-day public comment period on these updated Concern Level maps using our online Collaborative Mapping Tool. Please review the criteria for each concern level identified below.

Visit our website for instructions on how to use the Collaborative Mapping Tool.

After public comment is complete, the forest will review the input and update the Concern Level maps as appropriate. The link to the collaborative mapping tool will be available on the Scenery Management subpage on the Forest Plan Revision website by July 21, 2017. See link below:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd547368>



MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

PLAN REVISION


















Please be patient when the maps are loading. The speed of your internet connection will greatly influence how fast the maps load.






Look for the base map options at bottom of the map display options panel. You can turn on and off different views to help you locate yourself when you zoom in to draw a point, line, or polygon.

Concern Level Criteria:

Concern Level 1 - High interest in scenery

-  Major highways
-  Scenic Byways
-  Primary National Forest System Roads
-  Nationally designated trails
-  Wilderness Areas
-  Wild and Scenic Rivers
-  Other special designation areas
-  Vista points, overlooks, primary campgrounds and recreation areas
-  Cabin rentals
-  Sensitive communities
-  Major historic sites
-  Secondary travel ways and sites with high interest in scenery
-  Recreation resorts
-  Special places of local or regional importance
-  Special places of tribal importance

Concern Level 2 – Moderate interest in scenery

-  Secondary highways
-  Secondary National Forest System Roads
-  Secondary trail systems
-  Secondary Campgrounds, trailheads, etc.
-  Any travel route that accesses a Concern Level 2 use area

Concern Level 3— Open roads not already assigned Concern 1 or 2

Refer to: [Landscape Aesthetics: A handbook for Scenery Management. USDA Forest Service Agriculture Handbook 701](#) available on our website, for excerpts regarding concern levels and the scenery management system